

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed September 6, 2005, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections based on the combination of references Brown (2,363,639) and Jones (3,449,778). The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-8, 10-28, and 44-50 based primarily on the Brown and Jones combination.

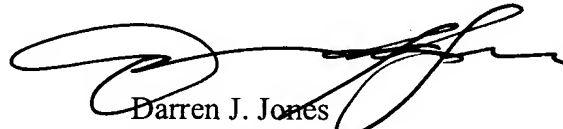
With respect to the Brown patent, the Examiner states that Brown discloses stitching of a covered belt to a cover. The Examiner acknowledges that Brown does not disclose stitching of the belt by bar tacks adjacent the belt openings. The Examiner relies upon the Jones reference for such teaching.

However, the Brown reference specifically teaches that the stitching of the belt to the cover is to be at the center of the back section of the cover, not near the openings. In column 2, lines 40-49, Brown specifically states that, "It is important to the proper operation of my vest that this drawstring or tape be secured at this point only . . ." Furthermore, with regard to Jones, Applicant notes that the bar tack stitching is simply to secure one nylon belt portion to another nylon belt portion within the foam. Nowhere is the belt portion stitched to the cover. This is shown in the drawings and clarified in the text of column 3, lines 37-40 and 63-67. Therefore, not only is Jones not combinable with Brown due to the teaching away within the Brown reference of such a combination, but Jones does not disclose stitching to the cover, adjacent the cover opening or otherwise. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections in the Office Action dated September 6, 2005 and requests that the case be passed to allowance and issuance.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the brief telephone conference wherein the Brown and Jones references were discussed in a manner consistent with the aremarks set forth above.

Respectfully submitted,

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM^{PLLC}



Darren J. Jones
Registration No.: 36,715
Direct Dial: 206.957.2490

MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via first class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.08 on the date indicated below addressed to: **MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

9/29/05

Date of Deposit



Sharon S. Anderson

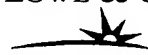
25315

CUSTOMER NUMBER

- 14 -

STE-A-1-1001RFR

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM^{PLLC}



701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4800
Seattle, Washington 98104
206.381.3300 • F: 206.381.3301